

REMARKS

The Applicant has carefully considered the Official Action mailed April 19, 2004, and in view of the Examiner's arguments, Claim 1 has been extensively amended. As now presented, the Applicant believes that Claim 1 unequivocally overcomes the references upon which the Examiner has relied and is in condition for allowance.

As now amended, Claim 1 specifically defines the structure of the housing which forms the electrical box of the present invention and the secure affixation of a plurality of electrical cable/conduit connectors directly to wall members of the housing. In addition, and most importantly, the indicia is now defined as being formed directly on at least one interior surface of one of the wall members of the housing, with the indicia covering a major portion of said interior surface. Furthermore, the indicia is specifically described as being constructed for providing information regarding the electrical circuit or equipment to which the electrical cable/conduit connectors mounted to the housing are affixed.

The Applicant maintains that based upon these extensive amendments to Claim 1, the references upon which the Examiner has relied are unequivocally distinguished. As detailed herein, none of these references, whether considered individually or in combination, provide any teaching or suggestion which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to construct an electrical box as defined in amended Claim 1.

First of all, Shotey, the Examiner's principal reference, merely discloses a conventional wall mounted box for receiving and retaining an electrical plug assembly. However, this reference does not teach or describe the housing construction defined in Claim 1. In particular, Claim 1 is specifically directed to electrical boxes wherein cable connectors or conduit connectors are securely affixed. In this regard, shielded cables which contain electrical wires are affixed, at their terminating end, to a connector, and the connector is securely mounted to the electrical box as defined in Claim 1. This construction is structurally different from the construction shown in Shotey, wherein the electrical wires pass through an aperture formed in the housing with the free ends of the wire being affixed to the plug receiving outlet.

In the construction taught in this reference, no connector is present and, in this type of construction, a cable/conduit connector would not be employed. Furthermore, the advantages provided by the indicia taught in the present invention and specifically claimed in amended Claim 1 would never be used in the construction taught in Shotey. As a result, the combination of this reference with the additional references cited by the examiner is believed to be misplaced.

In addition, and more importantly, is the complete inability of the Examiner's secondary reference, namely Kitagawa, to provide any relevant teaching to the construction defined in Claim 1. In this regard, Kitagawa is directed to a housing which incorporates a plurality of electrically conductive wires which are embedded below the surface of the housing. In order to enable a user to connect desired components to the

electrically conductive wires, the location of these wires must be made known to the user. This required result is achieved by placing designators or guide lines in specific locations on the surface of the housing so that the user will know where the electrical wires are mounted.

In view of the network of thin embedded wires mounted within the housing of Kitagawa, the designators or guide lines must be extremely narrow, limited, and focused. Consequently, the specific limitation incorporated into Claim 1 of the present invention, namely that the indicia mounted on the walls of the housing of the present invention cover a major portion of said interior surface, unequivocally distinguishes the teaching provided in Kitagawa.

Furthermore, the Applicant maintains that any reliance by the Examiner of Kitagawa is erroneous since this reference is directed to non-analogous art. As discussed above, Kitagawa is specifically directed to a housing incorporating a plurality of the embedded electrically conductive wires. This construction is totally unrelated to electrical box constructions defined in Claim 1 and specifically detailed in the disclosure of the present invention.

The present invention is directed to electrical connectors, their use with shielded cables, and the mounting of such connectors to junction boxes and the like. The technology represents a completely different body of art to which the skilled would be directed for any prior art teachings. The type of construction taught in Kitagawa is completely outside of the scope of the art to which the present invention is directed

and Kitagawa would not form the basis of any prior art subject matter to which one of ordinary skill in the present art would consult. Consequently, the Applicant maintains that any use of this reference is misplaced.

In addition, even if the Examiner were to continue the citation of Kitagawa for the teaching asserted to be provided thereby, this reference is incapable of providing one of ordinary skill in the art with sufficient teaching to construct the invention now defined in amended Claim 1. In this regard, as clearly discussed above, Kitagawa merely teaches placing guide lines or demarcations on the surface of the housing to specifically designate the location of the embedded wires. However, the present invention is directed to forming indicia on the interior surface of at least one wall member of the housing, with the indicia covering a major portion of the surface of the wall member, and with the indicia being employed for designating the specific electrical circuit or equipment to which the shielded cable or conduit affixed to the connector is mounted.

As fully discussed throughout the detailed disclosure of the present invention, by placing the desired indicia on the interior surface of the housing of the electrical box of the present invention, any individual is capable of immediately recognizing the equipment or electrical circuit to which the wires contained in the housing are mounted for being able to make any necessary repairs. There can be no doubt that the mere teaching of guidelines formed on a surface for defining the location of embedded electrical wires is incapable of providing a teaching or any suggestion to one of

ordinary skill in the art that indicia must cover a major portion of a wall of a housing and must be employed for designating the remotely located electrical circuit or equipment to which the wires in the housing have been affixed. There can be no doubt that any attempt to expand the teaching of Kitagawa to encompass the present invention would require not only the use of hindsight teaching provided by the present invention, but also an expansion of the scope and purpose of the cited reference, well beyond any reasonable scope to which the cited reference is capable of providing. Consequently, the Applicant maintains that Claim 1, as now amended, clearly and unequivocally distinguishes the cited references and is in condition for allowance.

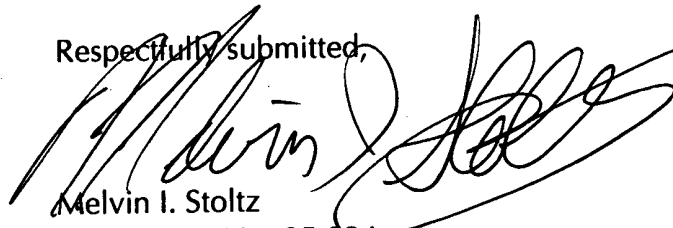
Another reference specifically relied upon by the Examiner is Barna for its teaching of color coded receptacles. However, although this reference has a color coded system for designating specific ports, there is no teaching or suggestion in this reference which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to specifically place any color coding or other indicia on the interior walls of the housing. Any attempt to expand the teaching of this reference to include the specific structural configuration, as detailed in Claim 1, would be beyond the teaching of Barna and would require reconstruction of the system taught therein. Consequently, the Applicant maintains that Claim 1, as now amended, clearly distinguishes this cited reference.

Claims 2, 3, and 6-17 are all dependent upon Claim 1 and had novel combinations thereto. For this reason as well as the reasons detailed above in reference to

Claim 1, the Applicant believes these dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Based upon the foregoing amendment and the arguments presented herein, the Applicant believes that Claims 1-3 and 6-17 are all in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowability is earnestly solicited. If any questions remain which may be resolved by a telephone interview, Applicant's undersigned Attorney would gladly discuss such issues with the Examiner at the Examiner's convenience. For this purpose, Applicant's undersigned Attorney has provided his telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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